

# Wilkins News



## January 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to 2017 and the celebration of 50 years of learning at Wilkins Elementary! We have a strong tradition of high expectations for learning and a community that cares for one another. We are on our way to continue these traditions for another 50 years!

January and February are some of my favorite months of the school year. You will see amazing growth during this time of the year. Keep encouraging reading in your home 20 minutes every day. Read with your children and let them see you reading. It's time to find that good book that you didn't have time for in 2016 and read it for 20 minutes while your child is reading. I know that I have several on my shelf waiting to be read and I will be reading a "just for fun" book. We will be celebrating reading the entire month of January with our Roar for Reading program. Please make sure that you sign your child's reading record sheet each week.

Weather: Please make sure that you are sending your child with a warm winter coat, hats, gloves, boots and snow pants so that they are able to enjoy the winter weather at recess. You can sign up for text alerts about weather by following the LM Emergency Notifications link on the bottom right hand side of the front page of the Linn-Mar District homepage. (<http://www.linnmar.k12.ia.us/>) Make sure you sign up for both District and Wilkins alerts. You can also find information if school is delayed or cancelled due to weather scrolling on the local TV stations or on the red district alert banner on the Linn-Mar homepage.

Please check your calendars and mark days that students will not be in session at Wilkins:

Friday, January 13  
Monday, January 16  
Friday, February 17  
Monday, February 20  
March 13 - 17 (Spring Break)

Have a wonderful start to the New Year!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela C. Schulz". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Pamela C. Schulz

## Wilkins Way!

WE are Safe.....WE are Respectful.....WE are Responsible.....WE are Ready

In December, our school wide reward was watching, The Polar Express, movie in the gym! Some students were randomly chosen to a special VIP screening of the movie complete with popcorn! We also had several surprise paw draws in December! Paw prints were randomly drawn for children to decorate gingerbread houses and make reindeer trail mix. This month, we will take time in our classrooms to reteach some of our Wilkins Way behaviors so that we will be off to a great start in 2017!

## Kindergarteners for 2017/2018 School Year

We are gathering contact information of children that would be eligible to attend Kindergarten at Wilkins for the 2017/2018 school year.

**\*Child needs to turn 5 by September 15, 2017**

If you have a child or know of any child that is eligible please e-mail or call the Wilkins' office with the following information:

- Child's full legal name
- Date of birth
- Address
- Indicate if they attended preschool or if they are currently in a blended program
- A contact phone number

**\*\*Parent meeting at Wilkins School Thursday, February 09, 2017 at 6:30pm**

Wilkins phone: (319)-447-3380

Wilkins E-mail: VFaulkner@linmar.k12.ia.us

**Reminder Crossing Guard Change:** There will be no crossing guard on duty at the 35<sup>th</sup> Street/McGowan intersection, during the morning time frame. There will still be a crossing guard at this intersection for the after school time frame. This change will continue through the winter season.

We will go back to having the morning crossing guard at this intersection in the Spring.

The Wilkins staff would like to send a huge Thank-you out to our PTO and anyone who helped donate or helped in some way. We appreciate the special lounge decorations, the delicious holiday lunch and the gift cards for the staff. You make a difference for us. Thank you!



## Grade Level News



**Kindergarten:** It is hard to believe that it is almost Christmas! This year is going by quickly! The kids have been working hard on their math concepts. We have been working on simple addition using our "gus the plus riddle" to solve our story problems. We have been using non-standard units of measurement. The kids have enjoyed measuring objects with unifix cubes, paper clips and math manipulatives. We have seen huge improvements in writing our numbers 0-20. Writing: The kids are starting to soar with their writing skills. They are beginning to hear all of the sounds in the words and apply it to their writing. We will continue to work on our writing by creating stories that have a beginning, middle and end.

**First Grade:** The first graders have been hard at work, reading lots of stories both in large group and in smaller guided reading groups. We are now on our fifteenth lesson of Journeys, and we are getting more high frequency words and harder spelling words. In math, we have been working on place value (tens and ones), greater than/less than/equal to, and comparing animal weights. We have also been reviewing some previously taught concepts. We now have a daily "math message" that we solve. We are really enjoying our science unit of Sound and Light. We have used tuning forks, sound drop chambers, a sound generator, and we've gone outside to listen for sounds. One of our favorite experiments was when we used the tuning forks to feel and hear the vibrations! We also had a lot of fun trying to match sounds to our partner's when we dropped items into the sound chambers. And the sound generator really showed us how vibrations travel through the air when it made rice "dance" on a plastic lid!

**Second Grade:** Second graders are full of excitement for the holidays! This week they got to do some fun activities with writing about elves and reindeer. They had to persuade Santa that they should get the job they applied for. We are learning how to write a Persuasive in our Journeys reading. The boys and girls love all the hands on they get in our Science unit on Solids and Liquids. We finished up Solids and will begin Liquids next. They had to work in a group to build a tower and bridge with the supplies they were given. It was interesting watching the dynamics of the groups. We are finishing up unit 5 in Math. The unit was on 3D and 2D Shapes. They learned about Line Segments, Symmetry and explored Polygons, Arrays and attributes. Unit 6 is Whole Number Operations and Number Stories. The year is going quickly! The children have learned so much already and we look forward to a lot more learning in the remaining months!

**Third Grade:** Our third graders have stayed very busy in December! In math, they have been studying area, perimeter, very large numbers and decimals. They have learned all about urban, suburban and rural communities in social studies. Making dioramas of the different types of communities was a lot of fun and helped them learn to work cooperatively and to make decisions as a group. A highlight of the month was having Officer Mitch Walser and his police dog Fador (from the Marion Police Department) come to do a presentation for us after reading the story "Aero and Officer Mike" in our Journey's reading books. The kids wrote persuasive letters to Santa this month. They were the elves applying for different jobs in Santa's workshop. Delightful stories! The third graders are not only growing physically, but as readers, writers, artists, mathematicians and good citizens as well!

**Fourth Grade:** Fourth grade has been busy!! We've completed the Northeast Region in Social Studies and are learning about the Southeast Region. We continue working hard on some very creative persuasive writing pieces. We are also exploring our Life as an Ant and are excited to share that with you. In math, we're growing in our math skills, and are now applying our basic multiplication facts to extended, multi-digit problems and beginning to learn division with remainders. As always, keep encouraging your child to read 20 minutes each night and keep practicing those math facts!

**Fifth Grade:** In math, fifth graders will continue their study of fractions, including addition and subtraction in Unit 6. They will also begin to organize data with the use of stem-and leaf plots, line plots, and analyze data using sample size. Additionally, students will take the Mid-Year math test. Students are reading realistic fiction, autobiography, adventure and science fiction during our literacy block and are focusing on the skills of: author's purpose, story structure and fact and opinion. Students will focus on narrative writing. Students will begin to learn about Building the First Colonies in social studies and will continue to explore the world of chemistry with the kit called Mixtures and Solutions. Students in 5W will learn about living systems. The focus for Pride, our intervention block, will continue to be literacy.



## January notes from the Music Room



Congratulations to the wonderful job our 1<sup>st</sup> Graders did on their concert, "Flakes!" They sang to a full house on December 1.

Congratulations to the Chorus for your outstanding performances on December 6. A special thank you to parents for providing transportation to our many events! The Chorus did a fantastic singing the National Anthem for the varsity Basketball game at the High School on December 9 too.

Chorus will begin again on Thursday, **January 26**. Be sure to have your rides arranged to be picked up at 3:30☺. All 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders meet on Thursday from 2:45- 3:30. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade has practice Tuesday morning at 7:30 AM and 4<sup>th</sup> Graders meet on Wednesday morning at 7:30. If there is a late start to school, all before school activities are cancelled. Also, if there is an early out, there will be no after school activities.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade will have their grade level concert on Thursday, February 23 at 6:30. They will be presenting "Let's Jam! It's Our Band".

These are the remaining concert dates we are looking forward to this year:

5<sup>th</sup> Grade - February 23

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - March 23

4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus April 14 morning field trip. Return to school by 11:30.

Chorus & Wilkins Orchestra Concert- April 18

Kindergarten - April 20

If you have any questions or concerns about what is going on in Music, please don't hesitate to contact me. The best way is through school e-mail at [kpeterson@linnmar.k12.ia.us](mailto:kpeterson@linnmar.k12.ia.us).



**Lost & Found:** If your child is missing any clothing items, please remember to check the lost & found items. It is located outside of the Wilkins' media center







# Linn-Mar School Foundation Happenings

Smart Money, the Annual Fund for Linn-Mar campaign is underway! The Linn-Mar School Foundation is focused on supporting 21st Century students, your students, with opportunities to succeed. We strive to bridge critical funding gaps and provide classroom, curriculum and enrichment program funding each year. Money raised from our Smart Money campaign, allow us to support grants to each of our 10 schools each year. Our donors generously help support 21st Century technology, student enrichment opportunities, STEM initiatives, visiting author programs, music enrichment and support programs for students facing financial obstacles to name a few.

Please consider supporting the Linn-Mar Foundation's Smart Money Annual Fund today. Easy & secure online giving available here <http://bit.ly/2g8JSOF>



Save the Date! Friday, March 24th, 6:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars for Friday, March 24th! Join the Linn-Mar School Foundation for a ROARING good time at the Annual Mane Event dinner and auction. This signature fundraiser will feature a Roaring 20's theme, mobile bidding, a fun Escape Room, Speakeasy, interactive entertainment, photo booth, auctions and more. Ticket reservations available in January 2017. Plan your table now and get ready for an amazing night to benefit our Linn-Mar students.

